

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 04642 220831Z

21

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

----- 008707

R 220715Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2866

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 4642

EXDIS

EA/PHL FOR AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR

SUBJ: AMBUSH KILLINGS OF THREE USN OFFICERS

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION CINCPACFLT AND INFO CINCPAC AND EMBASSY MANILA
REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE

P 150358Z APR 74

FM COMNAVBASE SUBIC BAY RP

TO CINCPACFLT

INFO CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR ADM WEISNER

INFO AMB SULLIVAN AND ADM GAYLER FROM SHELTON

AMBUSH KILLINGS THREE USN OFFICERS

1. FOLLOWING INFO PROVIDED TO GIVE YOU INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF
SUBJECT INCIDENT.
2. ALTHOUGH CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION IS INVOLVED AT THIS STAGE,
IT APPEARS THAT CAPT MITCHELL AND PARTY, WHILE ENROUTE BACK
TO SUBIC AFTER HAVING VISITED THE MCB CONSTRUCTION SITE, WERE
AMBUSHED BY APPROX 5-7 ARMED MEN. AFTER ROUNDING A BEND (LEFT
TURN) ON THE ROAD APPROX HALF MILE FROM CONSTRUCTION SITE THE
JEEP PROCEEDED UP AN INCLINE WHILE PROBABLY TRAVELLING LESS THAN
10 MPH DUE TO OVERALL ROAD CONDITIONS. IT HAS NOT YET BEEN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANILA 04642 220831Z

DETERMINED THAT THE SECTION OF ROAD AT WHICH THE AMBUSH OCCURRED

IS IN FACT WITHIN BASE BOUNDARIES. (DUE TO THE DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY OF ROAD CONSTRUCTION IN THAT AREA A TEMPORARY ROAD WAS BUILT FOR EQUIPMENT ACCES. THE TEMPORARY ROAD MAY BE PARTIALLY LOCATED OUTSIDE THE RESERVATION. A SURVEY IS UNDERWAY.)

IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE JEEP INITIALLY RECEIVED GUNFIRE (CARBINE) FROM A MAN WHO WAS ON THE ROAD APPROX WTAEP FEET DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF THE JEEP, AND POSSIBLY BY OTHER WEAPON POSITIONS ABOVE AND TO THE RIGHT. SEVERAL SLUGS HIT THE UNDERCARRIAGE AND ONE OR TWO PENETRATED ABOVE THE WINDSHIELD/CANVAS TOP AND PROBABLY HIT LT JEFFRIES, THE DRIVER, AS HE ATTEMPTED TO EXIT THE JEEP.

(THE JEEP HAD BEEN BRAKED TO A SUDDEN HALT, AS EVIDENCED BY SHORT SKID MARKS, PROBABLY EITHER IMMEDIATELY UPON SIGHTING OF THE ARMED MEN, OR IMMEDIATELY AFTER HAVING RECEIVED GUNFIRE). IT IS SURMISED THAT ALL THREE OCCUPANTS REACTED QUICKLY AND ATTEMPTED TO EXIT THE JEEP. ANOTHER, LONGER BURST OF GUNFIRE, POSSIBLY COMING FROM FOUR OR FIVE DIRECTIONS SIMULTANEOUSLY, FOLLOWED WITHIN APPROX 10 SECONDS OF THE FIRST VOLLY, KILLING CAPT MITCHELL AND CDR DOBLER, WHO APPARENTLY HAD CLEARED THE JEEP AND WHOSE BODIES WERE LATER RECOVERED 15-20 FEET DOWN A VERY STEEP RAVINE IMMEDIATELY ON THE DRIVERS SIDE OF THE ROAD. LT JEFFRIES' BODY WAS RECOVERED APPROX 10 FEET DOWN THE RAVINE; HIS WATCH, WALLET AND RINGS WERE TAKEN, INDICATING THAT HE WAS IMMOBILE, POSSIBLY DEAD FOLLOWING THE INITIAL BURST OF FIRE. THERE SEEMS NO DOUBT THAT THE AMBUSH WAS PLANNED IN ADVANCE. CAPT MITCHELL'S JEEP HAD TRAVERSED THE SAME ROAD LESS THAN AN HOUR EARLIER ENROUTE THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION; THE JEEP HAD TO RETURN THAT SAME ROAD, A FACT THAT WAS OBVIOUSLY KNOWN TO THE AMBUSH GROUP.

3. SINCE CAPT MITCHELL HAD DECIDED TO MAKE THE TRIP APPROX 121800H APRIL THERE IS VERY LITTLE LIKLIHOOD THAT THE AMBUSH PARTY HAD ADVANCE INFO ON WHO THEY WOULD BE ATTACKING. IT APPEARS QUITE LIKELY THAT THE AMBUSH GROUP HAPPENED TO BE IN THE VICINITY AS THE JEEP TRAVERSED THE ROAD. THIS GROUP MAY HAVE SIGHTED (OR AT LEAST HEARD) THE JEEP ENROUTE TO THE CONSTRUCTION SITE AND DECIDED TO CONDUCT THE AMBUSH UPON ITS RETURN UNDER THE FALSE EXPECTATION THAT THEY COULD RECOVER SOME WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION, IN ADDITION TO ROBBING THE VICTIMS.

4. THE PHIL CONSTABULARY (PC) ACKNOWLEDGE THE EXISTENCE OF THREE DISSIDENT GROUPS, TOTALLING APPROX TWENTY MEN, OPERATING IN THE BATAAN AREA. THE PC BELIEVE THAT THE AMBUSH WAS CONDUCTED BY ONE OF THESE THREE GROUPS. SEVEN OR EIGHT MEN STRONG, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MANILA 04642 220831Z

WHICH IS LED BY TEOFILLO VALENZUELA, A 28 YEAR OLD FROM SAMAL, BATTAN.

5. THERE ARE SEVERAL POSSIBILITIES AS TO WHY THIS INCIDENT OCCURRED AND WE ARE NOT YET FIRM ON ANY ONE OF THEM. IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE VALENZUELA GROUP IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATHS OF TWO OR THREE PHIL NATIONALS IN BATAAN OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS. INCREASING PRESSURE HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO BEAR AGAINST THEM DURING THIS TIME AND THE GROUP MAY HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY DESPERATE FOR RESOURCES. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT A PRIMARY MOTIVE WAS TO RECOVER WEAPONS. IT IS

ALSO POSSIBLE THAT THE AMBUSH GROUP DESIRED TO ESTABLISH OR ENHANCE ITS REPUTATION AMONG THE LOCALS (INCLUDING SQUATTERS DISENCHANTED WITH CONSTRUCTION OF THE PERIMETER ROAD) IN ORDER TO ENLIST FURTHER SUPPORT OR TO STRENGTHEN ITS STATUS WITHIN THIS AREA. ALTHOUGH POSSIBLE, THERE IS NO EVIDENCE SO FAR TO SUGGEST THE EXISTENCE OF "OUTSIDE" CONTROLLING INFLUENCES.

6. I HAVE INITIATED ON BASE SEARCH OPERATIONS WITH PMO AND MARINE PERS. THE PC ARE CONDUCTING OFF BASE SEARCH OPERATIONS IN COORDINATION

WITH THE PMO OPS, AND THE NISO RESOURCES ARE EMPLOYED.

7. SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS WILL BE REPORTED AS OCCURRING.

8. VERY RESPECTFULLY AND WARM REGARDS.

GDS-80 UNQTE PURNELL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, ARMED FORCES, PARAMILITARY FORCES, MILITARY BASES, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MANILA04642
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740093-0549
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740425/aaaaavvi.tel
Line Count: 128
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Aug-2002 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <14 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBUSH KILLINGS OF THREE USN OFFICERS FOLLOWING SENT ACTION CINCPACFLT AND INFO CINCPAC AND EMBASSY
MANILA
TAGS: MARR, RP, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005